fence, Ministry of Finance, etc. and resources being made available to this Ministry.

(c) The 9th Plan is yet to be finalised. It may be stated that funds, for the current year, for the North-Eastern States alongwith other States, will be decided after Demands for Grants are passed by the Parliament.

Recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee

716. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rakesh Mohan Committee has submitted its report to his Ministry;

(b) what are salient features of the report; and

(c) what strategy/scheme has been chalked out to mobilise private funds from domestic as well as international market for national highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the recom mendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee Report are as under:—

(i) Master Plan for Highway Development.
(ii) Highway Policy.
(iii) Strategy for Highway Development.
(iv) Maintenance and Management of Highway.
(v) Assessment of Funds.
(vi) Private Sector Involvement.
(vii) Highway Improvements on User Pays basis.
(viii) New Sources of Funds.
(ix) Institutional needs.
(x) Need for Comprehensive Guidelines.

(c) Following are the major steps taken to mobilise private funds:—

(i) Road sector has been declared as an Industry.

(ii) Procedure for land acquisition/environmental clearances has been simplified, (iii) Detailed guidelines for BOT projects issued, (iv)' National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), an autonomous body, operationalised and authorised to take up BOT projects. NHAI can participate in such projects by contributing upto 30% of equity, (v) Capital subsidy by Government/ NHAI upto 40% of the project can be provided for improving financial viability of the project, on case to case basis, (vi) Treating highway and housing and other development activities forming integral part of highway project as a part of road infrastructure, (vii) Duty free import of sophisticated equipment for highway projects, (viii) Corporate tax exemption of 100% in the first five year and 30% concession in the next 5 years, to be availed of in 20 years. (ix) Automatic approval for foreign upto 74% and upto 100% on case to case basis allowed.

Development of Vallarpadam Container Terminal at Cochin Port

717. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin Port Trust made any proposal for the development of Vallarpadam Container Terminal for the mothership to come to Cochin;

(b) if so, steps taken so far; and

(c) whether any attempt made to attract foreign collaboration for this new port development project?

THE MINISTER OF ^TATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Cochin Port Trust has invited Expressions of Interest from domestic and foreign Port Developers/Operators